

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 1-20. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended herein. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated May 11, 2004 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 1, 5-7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,132) in view of Taniguchi (U.S. Patent No. 4,824,212). In addition, Claims 2, 3, 8-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto, Taniguchi, and further in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,291).

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15

Regarding independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, embodiments of the presently claimed invention disclose a display unit including a pixel border of dummy pixels, as presently claimed. In particular, independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 of the present invention recite, in part:

. . . a pixel border having a predetermined width, said pixel border surrounding said matrix of

independently controllable discrete pixels and comprising dummy pixels, wherein each dummy pixel is analogous to a pixel of said matrix but without containing any active element driven by a driver circuit and not capable of modification, and wherein said dummy pixels allow light to pass through to improve contrast of edge-displayed images of said matrix . . . (Emphasis Added)

The claimed embodiments of Claim 1, 8, and 15 pertain to a display unit including a pixel border that comprises dummy pixels. More particularly, each dummy pixel does not contain any active element that is driven by a driver circuit. As such, each dummy pixel allows light to pass through to be displayed in order to improve contrast of edge-displayed images of the matrix in a display.

Applicants agree with the rejection that the Hashimoto reference does not disclose the dummy pixels allowing light to pass through to improve contrast of edge displayed images. Specifically, the Hashimoto reference teaches away from allowing light to pass through to be displayed by disclosing a mask layer that blocks any light through the dummy pixels. However, Applicants disagree that the Taniguchi et al. reference does disclose dummy pixels as claimed.

Applicants respectfully note that the Taniguchi reference does not comprise nor suggest the present invention as claimed in which each dummy pixel does not contain any active element that is driven by a driver circuit. In

contrast, the Taniguchi reference discloses a liquid crystal display device having separate driving circuits for display and non-display regions. That is, the Taniguchi reference explicitly discloses independently controlling, e.g., modulating picture elements of the non-display region through the use of driver circuits. As such, the Taniguchi reference does not teach nor suggest a pixel border including dummy pixels that each do not contain any active element that is driven by a driver circuit, as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 of the present invention.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that any combination of the Hashimoto and Taniguchi references does not teach or suggest the display unit of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Specifically, even if the controllable elements as disclosed with the Taniguchi reference were combined with the Hashimoto reference, no light would be allowed to pass through to improve contrast of edge-displayed images because of the light blocking mask layer in the Hashimoto reference.

Moreover, the Hill et al. reference fails to overcome the shortcomings of the Hashimoto and Taniguchi references. Specifically, the Hill et al. reference fails to teach or suggest a dummy pixel that does not contain any active element driven by driver circuits and that allows light to pass through to improve contrast of edge-displayed images, as

recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 overcome the cited references. As such, Claims 2-7 which depend on independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Further, Claims 9-14 which depend on independent Claim 8 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. In addition, Claims 16-20 which depend on independent Claim 15 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the facts and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-20 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

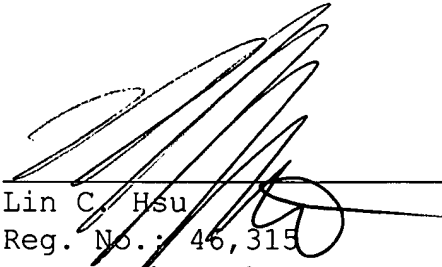
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

11 August 2004



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